GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:325
ANSWERED ON:18.07.2017
Plastic Rice and Sugar
Udasi Shri Shivkumar Chanabasappa

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were videos on social networking platforms about rice and sugar being made of plastic, if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India is collecting samples of rice and sugar from various parts of country, if so, details thereof; and
(c) whether the Government would take action against the manufacturers/producers/importers/sellers of plastic rice and sugar, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)
(a): Yes, Madam. However, the matter has been taken up with the State Governments of Kerala and Gujarat on the basis of International Food Safety Authorities Network (INFOSAN) alert. The concerned State Governments have confirmed that no incidence of plastic rice has been reported in the respective States.
(b): Random sampling and testing of food products, including Rice and Sugar, is done by the Officials of Food Safety Departments of the respective States/UTs to check compliance of the standards laid down under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, Rules and Regulations made there under. In cases where the food samples are found to be non-conforming, recourse is taken to penal provisions under Chapter IX of the FSS Act, 2006. Based on information made available by the State/UT Governments, details of food samples received, analysed, found non-conforming and action taken during the year 2016-17 is at Annexure-I .
(c): No specific case of presence of plastic rice and sugar has been detected in the country. However, under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, one can approach Consumer Fora for redressal in case of defective products and deficiency in service.
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ANNEXURE-I
ANNEX REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 325 TO BE ANSWERED ON 18th JULY, 2017 IN LOK SABHA.
Annual Public Laboratory Testing Report for the year 2016-2017
Sr. No
Name of the State/ U.T.
Total No. of samples received
No. of Samples Analysed
No. of Samples found adulterated and Misbranded
No. of Cases Launched
No. of Convictions/ Penalties
Criminal
Civil
Convictions
Penalties/
Amount raised in Rupees
1.
A & N Islands*
2.
Andhra Pradesh*
3.
Arunachal Pradesh
302
302
10
1
8
0
12/Rs. 348400
4.
Assam
536
526
67
3

23
0
2/Rs. 30000
5.
Bihar
2507
2427
42
3
30
6
Rs. 73000
6.
Chandigarh
251
251
19
2
14
1
Rs. 300000
7.
Chhattisgarh
1693
1693
425
8.
Dadra & N.H
44
44
3
3
9.
Daman & Diu*
10.
Delhi
1155
1152
120
9
98
106
68/Rs. 3741500
11.
Goa
920
874
111
5
1
1/ Rs. 20000
12.
Gujarat
11364
11329
839
46
513
2
Rs. 16681000
13.
Haryana
2041
2033
188
18
243
14
71/ Rs. 2982170
14.
Himachal Pradesh

351
315
57
35
23
Rs. 195000
15.
Jammu & Kashmir*
16.
Jharkhand*
17.
Karnataka
2837
2837
341
26
112
112/ Rs. 2195900
18.
Kerala*
19.
Lakshadweep*
20.
Madhya Pradesh
5075
5461
609
60
483
26
252/ Rs. 7427700
21.
Maharashtra
22.
Manipur
207
207
30
0
30
0
5/ Rs. 520000
23.
Meghalaya
47
43
3
24.
Mizoram
26
20
2
0
0
0
25.
Nagaland*
26.
Odisha*
27.
Puducherry
495
495
32
0
0
0
28.
Punjab
4431
4054

2240
56
1442
Rs. 1410921
29.
Rajasthan*
30.
Sikkim*
31.
Tamil Nadu
4080
3022
970
244
617
109
442/ Rs. 7898500
32.
Telangana
33.
Tripura
173
173
12
0
6
0
34.
Uttar Pradesh*
35.
Uttarakhand
749
676
119
3
199
19/ Rs. 1004000
36.
West Bengal*
Total:
39284
37934
6239
471
3861
288
984/ Rs.4,48,28,091
Note: Annual Report of the States* are awaited.
Source: States/UTs
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